

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HEALTH  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

Members present: Dr. Cohen, Dr. Krakow, Ms. Gianfortoni, Ms. Lefman, and Ms. Maher

Staff present: Dr. Balsam, Dr. Rudisch, and Ms. Careskey

Dr. Cohen convened the meeting at 6:15. The minutes for both November and December were reviewed. Motion to accept by Ms., Maher, and minutes were approved. The December minutes were accepted as written.

REPORTS FROM DIVISIONS

Dr. Krakow reported on the Community Health Division:

The Brookline Passport to Health and Fitness is a huge success. We have 14 businesses participating; ranging from ballet studios to gyms. To date more than 150 people, ranging in age from 18 - 89, have purchased the passport! Passport proved to be a big hit as a holiday gift. (Timing is everything). We will do an evaluation of program at end of trial period which runs till March 31, 2012.

Brookline Climate Change Week is set for Jan 21 - Jan 29. On Saturday, Jan. 28, Dr. Balsam will offer a tour of the Health Department and we will have a Winter Market in the Denny Room. Slogan of market is: Shop Local, Eat Smart, Move More. Events will feature some food items, showcase local food businesses, offer ideas for healthy eating, and promote Brookline Passport, etc.

Ms. Lefman reported on activities related to Emergency Preparedness and Tobacco Control:

The MRC was very busy in November assisting with all of the flu clinics. More than 70 MRC volunteers helped this year as clinicians and non-clinicians. They have been a huge help with all clinics including the ones for employees.

In mid-November, Ms. Sibor presented the Emergency Preparedness Begins at Home program to 20+ residents at Cabot Estates (one of our MRC member's lives there). Lots of great questions and ideas came from that program.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> we had a very successful MRC training with MRC and CERT members in attendance. The program was an introduction to the Brookline Health Department. All Division Directors presented information about their programs.

Ms. Sibor spoke (Emergency Preparedness Begins at home) before a 60+ neighborhood group (Salisbury Road) area) in mid-December. They meet once a month and have a guest speaker.

We continue to work with CERT (police department), and the Senior Center on "Project Buddy". We have put together some objectives and a timeline. We hope to roll this program out in the summer.

The MRC-CERT deployment training on January 9<sup>th</sup> that the MRC leadership committee organized went very well. More than 50 people attended, and it was an informative program. Four MRC members were the presenters.

**Tobacco**

Mr. Chin has been very busy with the tobacco control program. He has been doing inspections in all 5 communities, has met with youth who might conduct compliance checks and attended several tobacco meetings sponsored by MTCP. He participated in the Great American Smoke out event at the State House in November and other events/trainings. We received notice that we had been awarded a Community Transformation Grant to focus more work on Smoke-free housing and to give us some additional funding.

Dr. Rudisch reported on Child Health:

Ms. Westley's graduate student will investigate the two clusters of pneumonia cases in Brookline Schools for her practicum project. Also, over 1400 flu shots were dispensed, including 60 at a clinic at the Lawrence School. The victim of bat rabies from the Cape is still alive; if he survives, he would be the third survivor treated using the "Milwaukee Protocol."

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Balsam reported that Mr. Orsini, one of our senior Public Health inspectors had passed his Registered Sanitarian exam and had a second baby. He is out for six weeks on paternity leave.

The Board of Selectmen will consider our proposal for a six month pilot project at nine locations for Mobile Food Trucks. This issue has generated considerable interest.

Two new grad students, one from Northeastern working with Dr. Gellineau and the other from Suffolk, working with Ms. Sibor, started this week.

There was some discussion of the regulatory sanctions, against Golden Temple restaurant. We have required them to hire a food safety consultant.

Dr. Gellineau and Ms. Norling are presenting to a group of Orthodox Rabbi's and others on Wednesday regarding domestic violence.

The controversy, surrounding coyotes is heating up. We will likely launch an educational program on the issue this spring. Members expressed diverse views on how to deal with coyotes.

#### FRIENDS OF BROOKLINE PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms. Careskey reported that membership renewals are running slightly ahead of last year, bringing in over \$2200 to date. The Annual Meeting is set for Wednesday, February I, 2012, and notices go out this week.

The first planning meeting for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Health Policy Forum is on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 pm.

#### CHNA 18

Ms. Lefman and Dr. Cohen announced a public meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> to present the results of the needs assessment. CHNA's around the state could be affected by the defunding of Prevention Centers. Also, our CHNA is seeking a new fiscal conduit.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE:

Ms. Maher reported on an amazing array of events planned for Climate Action Week later this month. Included are a Winter Market, talk by Frances Moore Lappe, and many art installations. The group has set an ambitious goal of reducing Brookline's carbon footprint by 25% by 2020.

There being no further business, motion by Dr. Krakow, second by Ms. Lefman to adjourn. Motion passed. Dr. Cohen adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Balsam Ph.D., MPH  
Director  
Public Health and Human Services